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PATENT



# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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<b>Appln. No.:</b> 10/618,689	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> 3677
<b>Filing Date:</b> July 9, 2003	
<b>Title:</b> PRECISE LINEAR FASTENER SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USE	<b>Docket No.</b> 75028-309325

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
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I CERTIFY THAT, ON FEBRUARY 10, 2006, THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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## RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT AND SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2006, in which all pending claims 1-25 were subject to an election of species requirement, and includes the following:

**Summary of Examiner Interview** beginning on page 2;

**Response to Election of Species Requirement** beginning on page 3; and

**Listing of Claims** beginning on page 5

### SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

On February 2, 2006, attorney of record Scott Marks and Dana Zelazny telephoned Examiner Reese and requested clarification on the characterization of Species 1-3. Examiner Reese clarified that he intended for the Applicants to select a combination of the collet members as shown in Figs. 4-6, compression rings as shown in Figs. 7-9 and shank members as shown in Figs. 10-12 for each of Species 1-3. The example was given that Figs. 2 and 3 show a device combining the collet of Fig. 4, the compression ring of Fig. 7 and the shank member of Fig. 11. No consensus was reached as to which of the Species would be elected.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

All pending claims 1-25 were subject to an election of species requirement in the Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. The Examiner asserted that no claims were generic, and the position was taken that the application includes claims directed to the following patentable distinct species of the invention.

Species I	Fig. 1, (4 or 5, or 6), (7, or 8, or 9), (10, 11, or 12)
Species II	Fig. 1, (4 or 5, or 6), (7, or 8, or 9), (10, 11, or 12)
Species III	Fig. 1, (4 or 5, or 6), (7, or 8, or 9), (10, 11, or 12)
Species IV	Figs. 2-3 and 4, 7, and 11
Species V	Fig. 13
Species VI	Fig. 14
Species VII	Fig. 15
Species VIII	Fig. 16
Species IX	Fig. 17
Species X	Fig. 18
Species XI	Figs. 20-22

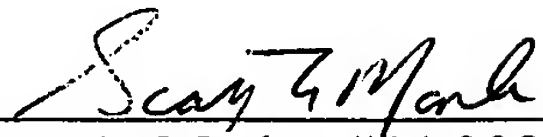
By this response, the Applicant elects to prosecute Species IV in this application. This election is made without traverse. The claims readable on the elected Species IV are: 1-5, 8, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 19-25.

The Applicant asserts that claim 1 is generic and reads on elected Species IV, and understands that if a generic claim is allowed, the Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Examination of the application is requested. No fee is believed to be necessary in connection with this response. Should an extension of time, or any fee be required, the applicant requests that this action be undertaken and our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 be charged for the fee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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